
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

\$2.7M UPGRADE TO MAKE LANGLEY FINE ARTS STUDENTS SAFER

LANGLEY – The Province has approved \$2.7 million in seismic upgrades to make the Langley Fine Arts School safer, Fort Langley-Aldergrove MLA Rich Coleman announced today.

“These upgrades to the Langley Fine Arts School will ensure students from kindergarten right through Grade 12 can safely develop a firm foundation in visual arts, literary arts, dance, drama, and music,” said Coleman.

Built in 1964, the original school has received several additions over the years. The \$2.7 million is for the first phase of seismic upgrades, which are expected to be complete by September.

The first phase involves upgrades to the gymnasium and workshop blocks, including:

- Adding plywood to strengthen wood frame walls
- Strengthening the floors and roof
- Improving connections between the roof, walls and foundations
- Reinforcing some concrete foundations

“This school provides a creative and positive outlet for the students and will now be a safer, more enjoyable environment for everyone,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “These seismic upgrades are part of the largest investment in student safety ever made by a government in this province.”

The work at Langley Fine Arts School is part of a \$1.5-billion program to seismically upgrade B.C. schools. The second phase is expected to start in summer 2008.

“We are very pleased to hear that the first phase of this important project is moving forward,” said board chair Steve Burton. “This upgrade will help ensure the safety of our students and staff in the event of an earthquake.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$14.9 million in school construction and maintenance in the Langley school district. The funding supported two schools and four school additions, including the new R.C. Garnett Elementary Demonstration School.

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During the same period, the Province spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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